



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Let's Go Outside

Reconnecting to the Natural World

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."

Rachel Carson

Today, the connection between humans and the natural environment is being lost, often resulting in a loss of a sense of place.

- Children today spend less time playing outdoors than any previous generation
- Youth between the ages of 8 and 18 years spend an average of 6.5 hours per day with electronic media
- Children can identify 25 percent more cartoon characters than wildlife species

A connection with nature, whether it's hiking, fishing, camping, hunting or simply playing outside, helps children develop positive attitudes and behaviors towards the environment.

It is the goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help bridge the gap between conservation of our nation's wild heritage and the health and well-being of our nation's children by:

- Sharing existing and new stories of re-connecting people with nature
- Partnering with healthcare providers, educators and local communities to increase outdoor opportunities
- Creating and participating in forums for experts to share and coordinate efforts

Children's positive interactions with the environment can lead to a life-long interest in enjoying and preserving nature.

Ask us about exciting programs that are happening right now!

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